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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 03:47:59 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

November 19, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5030 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: EFIN, ECON, EAID
Captions: None
Subject: UAE WOMEN'S GROUP COLLECTS MONEY FOR PALESTINAINS
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 05030

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: POL P/M AMB DCM
Laser1:
INFO: FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON:OJOHN
CLEARED: ECON:CMCRUMPLER

VZCZCADI834
RR RUEHC RUEHJM RUEHTV RUEATRS
DE RUEHAD #5030 3231406
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 191406Z NOV 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2447
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0072
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0427
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 005030

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, S/CT, INL/ENT, EB/ESC
TREASURY FOR ZARATE, GLASER, AND MURDEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/08
TAGS: [EFIN](#) [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE WOMEN'S GROUP COLLECTS MONEY FOR PALESTINAINS

Classified by DCM Richard Albright for reasons 1.5 (b & d).

¶1. (SBU) Econchief attended a charity Iftar "take away" hosted by an Abu Dhabi women's group in his neighborhood. Members of the group cooked traditional Iftar foods and sweets and sold them at a member's house. Customers could buy the homemade delicacies, reheat them and have them for Iftar (the breaking of the fast during Ramadan). The international women's group (including Iraqis,

Emirati, Palestinians, and Americans) also hosts a Christmas bake sale. The purpose of the sales is to raise money to provide aid to the Palestinians. In the words of one member, "the need there is so great," that the group wants to help.

12. (SBU) The group collects the money but then turns it over to the UAE Red Crescent Authority (RCA) to administer. Using the RCA has two advantages. One, it allows the women to contribute to a defined project - currently a dental clinic. The group doesn't need to "adopt" a complete project, but can take a share of it. Two, it provides assurances that the money is going to help the needy. The RCA provides feedback to the group, including giving them receipts and providing them pictures of "their project."

13. (C) Comment: In the post-September 11 world, the UAEG has acted to control the international activities of charities. There is an "understanding" that all charitable organizations in the UAE must channel their international assistance through one of two semi-governmental organizations: the RCA, headquartered in Abu Dhabi, and the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation in Dubai. For their part, the ladies were very happy to work with the RCA. One stressed that, with the RCA, they knew that the money was going to help the needy and not to line the pockets of someone in the Palestinian Authority. The group also worked to provide food to Iraqis in the aftermath of the Gulf War, but has returned to its efforts on behalf of the Palestinian people. End Comment

Wahba